



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 JULY 1968

1. Communist China

Recent satellite photography has provided good evidence that China is producing medium range ballistic missiles at a plant just outside of Peking.

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2. Czechoslovakia

There are still no signs that any of the Russian military units deployed from the Soviet Union into central Czechoslovakia for the Warsaw Pact exercise have withdrawn. Some of the Soviet elements which deployed into western Czechoslovakia from East Germany, however, have returned to their bases.

3. Supersonic
Transports

Either the Soviet TU-144 or the Anglo-French Concorde may have the distinction of being the first supersonic transport to fly. The TU-144 is scheduled to fly before the end of the year, probably in the fall. The Concorde is at a comparable stage of development.

Both programs are already well behind their original schedules, however, and further delays could well crop up.

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4. Philippines

Marcos is making little effort to assure a continued Philippine presence in Vietnam. We see no sign, for instance, that he is really trying to get the Philippine Congress to act on an appropriation bill for the Vietnam contingent. In fact, Embassy Manila quotes Marcos as saying that he will merely ask for a congressional decision on this "one way or the other."

5. Greece

The military rulers are evidently badly divided over certain provisions of their draft constitution--particularly those defining the role of the King. The embassy believes that Premier Papadopoulos now stands virtually alone against those in the junta who oppose any position of power for Constantine. The embassy cautions that this situation could provoke some of the hot heads in the leadership to try for a takeover.

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6. Mexico

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Ordaz faces a severe challenge in elections for governors and other officials in Chihuahua and Durango next Sunday.

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Last month the party evidently lost local elections in Tijuana and Mexicali, but the PRI-controlled state legislature voided both contests.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Peking Breaks Silence on Vietnam: On 28 June Peking broke its silence on the Vietnam war by reporting Hanoi's claimed shootdown of a 3000th US plane. On 2 July the Chinese followed this up by reporting a press conference held by the North Vietnamese ambassador in Peking publicizing the event. Out of respect for Chinese sensibilities, the ambassador made no reference to the Paris talks but stressed the Vietnamese people's determination to "win even greater victories."

The highlighting of the alleged North Vietnamese shootdown and the coverage of the North Vietnamese press conference represent the first significant Chinese media coverage of Vietnam since Hanoi's agreement to peace talks. It seems clear that both Peking and Hanoi, despite their differences over the tactic of negotiation, are attempting to counter recent reports of increasing serious friction in Sino-North Vietnamese relations.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report to-
day.

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